



HECKMONDWIKE
URBAN . . .
DISTRICT . . .

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL
OFFICER
OF
HEALTH

For the
YEAR 1945




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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1945.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HECKMONDWIKE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

During the absence of your Medical Officer of Health in Europe Dr. Frain, Medical Officer of Health, Batley, deputed. Statistical returns of Births, Deaths and Infantile Mortality were less favourable than in the previous year. Seven of the nine deaths in infants under one were, however, neo-natal and one of the remaining two accidental. I have presented Infantile Mortality over sixty years at five-yearly intervals. The decline of their averages represents the summation of factors favourably influencing infant life. A glance at crude Births and Death rates over the same period, however, gives less cause for satisfaction. The age of our grand-parents reared twice as many children but was four times more profligate of infant life. There is scope for further reduction of Infantile Mortality, particularly in the neo-natal group, but the populational problem demands a high birth rate and future health planning must bear this in mind as a fundamental axiom.

Infectious disease notifications were low with the exception of measles which showed its bi-yearly epidemic prevalence. Pneumonia (3) and Tuberculosis (5) excluded, there were no deaths attributable to zymotic disease.

Clinics remained active during the year. Your Council rightly retained the Day Nursery in Cemetery Road and full advantage of the amenity has been enjoyed by working, sick, expectant mothers and their children.

Acknowledgments are due to the Health Department staff for their zeal and to officials who kindly provided me with necessary returns for the Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. BATTERSBY,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—

J. BATTERSBY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Glas.)

(On Active Service, April to December)

Acting Medical Officer of Health—

WM. J. FRAIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity & Child Welfare—

AGNES W. JERVIS, M.A. M.B., Ch.B., (St. And.)

Consulting Obstetric Surgeon—

D. W. CURRIE, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.

Health Visitor and School Nurse—

ELSIE WORTHINGTON, S.R.N., H.V. (New Cert.)

Sanitary Inspector—

JAMES CLARK, M.S.I.A.

Matron of Day Nursery—

EDITH MAIR, S.R.N.

Deputy Matron of Day Nursery—

MARGARET M. LARGEY, S.R.N.

One Nursery Assistant

Five Probationers

Two Junior Clerks

A—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in Acres)	696
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)				7,844
Population (as per Ration Books)			...	7,897
Number of Inhabited Houses	...		...	2,674
Number of Separate Families	...		...	2,889
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£49,345
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£195 7s. 1d.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS—The Net Live Births number (66 Male, 54 Female) 120
The Birth Rate is therefore 15.298

STILL-BIRTHS—Number (1 Male, 1 Female) 2
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population .392

DEATHS—Totalled (56 Male, 64 Female) 120
Giving a Death Rate (crude) of 15.298

MATERNAL MORTALITY—No Deaths were returned.

INFANTILE MORTALITY—Deaths of Children under One
Year number (1 Female, 8 Male) 9
Giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 75

DIARRHŒA UNDER TWO YEARS—There were no deaths from
this cause

Comparative Figure—

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	England & Wales		148 Smaller Towns		Heckmondwike		
	1944	1945	1944	1943	1945	1944	1945
Live Births ...	17.6	16.1	20.9	19.2	14.2	17.46	15.298
Still Births ...	.5	.46	.61	.53	.377	.499	.392
Deaths (all causes)	11.6	11.4	12.4	12.3	12.82	15.22	15.298

Rate per 1,000 Live Births—

Infantile [*] Mortality ...	46	46	44	43	26.55	7.142	75
Diarrhœa under 2 years ...	4.8	5.6	4.4	4.5	Nil	Nil	Nil

Rates per 1,000 Total Births

Maternal Mortality ...	1.93	1.79	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
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Causes of Death—

Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	5	Pneumonia ...	3
Syphilitic Diseases ...	2	Other Digestive Disturbances	4
Cancer (all Sites) ...	21	Nephritis ...	5
Diabetes ...	1	Congenital Malformations,	
Heart Disease ...	30	Birth Injuries, etc. ...	4
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	14	Suicide ...	1
Premature Birth ...	2	All Other Causes ...	17
Other Dis. of Circ. System	4	Other Violent Causes	4
Bronchitis ...	3		
TOTAL			120

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE 1891—1945

1891—1895	...	179	1920—1925	...	82
1895—1900		196.2	1925—1930	...	67
1900—1905	...	145	1930—1935	...	66
1905—1910		130	1935—1940	...	50.4
1910—1915	...	138	1940—1945	...	44.6
1915—1920		90			

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES 1891—1945

		BIRTH	DEATH
1891—1895	...	26.9	19.5
1895—1900	...	22.3	17.1
1900—1905	...	21.0	15.5
1905—1910	..	18.0	15.4
1910—1915	...	20.7	17.8
1915—1920	...	17.5	17.1
1920—1925	...	18.3	15.2
1925—1930	...	16.3	14.8
1930—1935	...	13.6	13.5
1935—1940	..	12.8	14.4
1940—1945	...	15.7	14.1

B—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

It is the wish of the Ministry that remarks under this Section should be confined to important alterations, rather than a recital of long-standing arrangements.

The War-time Day Nursery, at Cemetery Road, has given excellent service throughout the year.

Accommodation is available for forty children. Staff includes Matron (Mrs. Mair, S.R.N.), Deputy Matron (Miss Largey, S.R.N.), a Nursery Assistant, Probationers and Domestic Staff. Hours of duty 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Weekdays, except Saturday, 7 a.m. to 12 noon. Priority of admission is for infants aged 0 — 5 of working mothers; provision is usually available for the reception of children when mothers are (a) ill; (b) confined, according to circumstances. Charges, 1/- Daily; Saturday, 6d. and 1/9 for two children.

Three meals are provided; training of the children is undertaken, and the Nursery is approved by the National Society of Children's Nurseries. as a training centre for children's nurses. A training scheme for Probationers is in operation, which qualifies for the Nursery Nurses' Certificates.

Children medically examined	...	...	...	42
Children Immunised	...	...	...	11
Children away with Measles (January, 1945)				4
Children Vaccinated	...	...	...	1

There were no other cases of infection during the year.

Monthly Weight Charts—Children 3—6 years. Show an increase end of six months 32 ozs. approximately.

Fortnightly Weight Charts—Children—1—2 years. Show an increase end of six months 40 ozs. approximately.

Weekly Weight Charts—Children 0—1 year. Show an increase 3 to 6 ozs. weekly.

ONE DAY DIET SHEET 1½—5 YEARS

BREAKFAST—Porridge, Crisp Bacon, Fried Bread, Milk.

MID-MORNING—Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice.

DINNER—Chopped Lamb, Greens, Potatoes, Milk Pudding with Fruit

TEA—Jam Sandwiches, Cake, Milk.

ONE DAY DIET SHEET 10 MONTHS TO 1½ YEARS

BREAKFAST—Cereal, Extra Milk.

MID-MORNING—Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice, Rusks.

DINNER—Bone Broth with Sieved Vegetables, Milk Pudding, Rusks.

TEA—Hard Toast with Butter, Sponge Cake, Extra Milk.

ATTENDANCES			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average Attendance														
Under 2	...		5	7	15	15	13	13	12	12	14	14	12	11
Over 2	...		11	16	23	26	25	23	26	20	23	24	25	24
Highest Attendance														
Under 2	...		6	14	17	16	16	14	13	13	15	16	14	14
Over 2	..		16	23	26	33	30	24	29	29	26	27	28	30
Number of Days Open			...	26	23	26	23	22	25	26	24	19	27	23

PROMOTION of CLEANLINESS and ELIMINATION of VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The staff of the Health Department were most active during the year on the above subject. A Report on Verminous Infestation in Schools is forwarded weekly to the County Medical Officer. This is the starting point for enquiries in the home where conditions are inspected by the Health Visitor and advice given. Lethane Hair Oil is now used for verminous conditions of the head due to lice and nits. Opportunity for re-infestation occurs most frequently during school vacations, and Lethane Hair Oil was most successful where standards of maternal care were high.

Heckmondwike is a congested Urban District. In a square mile, there is a population of 8,000. Only a small percentage of houses have bathrooms, and overcrowding is common. Industry abounds, and the soot fall is heavy. Constant vigilance of the Health Staff particularly in the teaching of children is the principal means of combating slack standards. Recent innovations such as the Day Nursery and Toddlers' Clinic, the active work in the School Clinics, the teaching by the Health Department Staff and of the Youth Council Organization prove helpful. Propaganda apart from that conducted by visits and instruction in the home and clinics is effected by means of bills and posters. Further progress will be recorded in future reports.

Anti-Natal Clinic.

Individual Cases attending Clinics	...	...	97
Total Attendances	...	...	195
Average Attendance per Patient	...	...	2.0

Defects Classified.

Circulatory	...	...	...	...	2
Urinary	...	...	...	...	1
Hyperpyrexia	...	...	...	...	1
Deformed Pelvis	...	...	...	...	0
Varicose Veins	...	...	...	...	13
Hæmorrhoids	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Dentures, Septic Teeth and Pyorrhœa	...	...	...	...	24
Anæmia	...	...	...	...	7

History of Labours.

Normal Deliveries (including 15 on Books in 1944)	71
Breech Delivery	1
Still Birth (Deformed Foetus)	1
Abortion	1
Premature Birth	2
Transferred to Other Districts	6
Not yet Delivered... ..	13

Post-Natal Clinic.

Individual Cases	...	...	...	...	43
Found Normal—Free from Gynæcological Defects	...	...	...	...	28

Defects Classified.

Prolapse and Erosion	...	...	...	...	2
Cystocele, Rectocele and Retroversion	...	...	...	...	1
Retroversions	...	...	...	...	3
Cystocele and Rectocele	...	...	...	...	1
Endometritis and Blocked Tubes	...	...	...	...	1
Erosions	...	...	...	...	4
Breast Abscess	...	...	...	...	1

These were duly referred to their own Doctors or Dewsbury Infirmary for operation.

The Post-Natal Clinic has been in abeyance for the past few months owing to pressure of Ante-Natal work.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dear Sir,

The following is the Report of the work of the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics for the year 1945.

The Ante-Natal Clinics have been well attended, there being an increase of 8 over the number attending in 1944. The arrangements with Staincliffe County Hospital continue to work well. Of the total number of patients seen at the clinic, 41 were delivered in the Hospital and in each case regular reports of the condition found on examination at the clinic were made to the Superintendent.

An examination of the accompanying table of defects shows again the prevalent neglect of oral hygiene and this notwithstanding the Council's Scheme for Assisted Dental Treatment. In this connection, it might be advantageous to reconsider the scale of family income required for participation in the scheme which at present appears to be rather high and tends to act as a deterrent to those who are most in need of Dental Treatment. In addition to pyorrhoea and septic teeth, many of the women wear ill-fitting dentures or indeed none at all.

The level of general health has been high. There have been no maternal deaths and only one stillbirth and that a deformed foetus.

I should again like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Sister Elsie Worthington for the excellent manner in which she has discharged her duties.

AGNES W. JERVIS.

27/4/46

HEALTH VISITING.

Number of Visits paid during the year by the Health Visitor :—

(a)	To Expectant Mothers ...	...	First Visits	170
			Total Visits	227
(b)	To Children under 1 year	...	First Visits	141
			Total Visits	965
(c)	To Children between the ages of 1 & 5 years		Total Visits	1076

School Nursing Duties.

Visits to Children in their Homes	...	...	...	41
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	71

School Clinic.

The West Riding County Council is the Administrative Authority in this Area for School Medical Services, including the School Clinic. By arrangement with Heckmondwike Urban District Council the services of the Health Visitor are available as School Nurse. The Medical Officer of Health attends weekly for consultation.

Number of Scholars who attended the Clinic	...	890
Total Attendances	...	2324

Infant Welfare Centre.

Total number of Attendances during the year :—

By Infants under 1 year	...	1837
By Children 1 to 5 years	...	232

Total number of children who attended the Centre for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were :—

Under 1 year	...	135
Between 1 and 5 years	...	9

Total number of children attending the Centre during the year, who at the end of the year were :—

Under 1 year	...	108
Between 1 and 5 years	...	127

Child Life Protection.

The Health Visitor, who acts as Visitor for this purpose, has had no call on her services during the year,

C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

To The Medical Officer of Health,
Heckmondwike Urban District Council.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Report on the Sanitary Circumstances and Sanitary Inspection of the Area for the year 1945 in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Water Supply.

I am indebted to Mr. J. R. Broomhead, Water Engineer to the Council for the following information :—

The Area is supplied with water by the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Water Board. The water is moorland surface water and is supplied direct from the mains to each house in the Area, and during the year has been sufficient in quantity. The Engineer to the Board has submitted to the County Laboratory, Wakefield, 159 samples for bacteriological examination and 84 samples for chemical examination. The Reports submitted on the results of the chemical examinations were satisfactory, and a summary of the Reports on the Bacteriological examinations is given below :—

SOURCE OF SAMPLE	TOTAL	NUMBER OF SAMPLES Containing B. Coli.											
		B. Coli. per 100 ml.											
		Presumptive								Confirmatory Fæcal (Eijkman)			
		1	2	3	4	6	9	16	18	1	2	3	6
Untreated—													
Broadstone Res....	12	2	1	1	1	1			1			1	1
Treated—													
Inlet													
Whitley Res. ...	49	2	1			1							
Outlet													
Whitley Res. ...	49	7	2	2			3	2		2	1	1	
As Supplied to Towns in Bulk—													
Staincliffe ...	49	5	5	1	1	2					1		
	159	16	9	4	2	4	3	2	1	2	2	2	1

Nine further samples of water were taken and submitted for Chemical Analysis. The Analyst reports the chemical data on these waters to be satisfactory.

The result of the examination of Four Samples of Water submitted for examination as to Plumbo-Solvent action are given below :—

Sample No.	RESULT OF EXAMINATION	
	P.H, Value	LEAD CONTENT (Grains per Gallon)
1 (a)	7.0	Nil
2 (b)	7.0	Nil
3 (a)	8.0	Nil
4 (b)	8.0	Nil

(a) After standing in Pipe all night.

(b) After standing in Pipe for measured period of half-an-hour.

Sewerage and Drainage.

There has been no extension of the Council's sewers or sewage disposal works during the year.

In connection with drainage defects and reconstruction, 112 visits have been made for the purpose of inspection and testing, and during the year the following reconstructed drains were inspected :

201 ft.—4 inch pipes.

69 ft.—6 inch pipes.

3 Inspection Chambers.

12 Self Cleansing Gullies.

80 ft.—Soil and Ventilating Pipe.

Closet Accommodation.

Four additional Water Closets were provided at dwelling-houses and three at a factory.

Number of Water Closets in use	...	2,963
„ Waste Water Closets in use		68
„ Privies in use	... ..	17

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

During the year the following inspections were made:—

NATURE OF INSPECTION	Primary Inspections	Re- Inspections	Total Visits
Premises re Abatement of Nuisances ...	158	378	536
Water Supply... ..	6	—	6
Waste of Water	23	—	23
Tents, Vans, Sheds	1	—	1
Houses-Let-in-Lodgings	3	—	3
Entertainment Houses	1	—	1
Ashes Accommodation	91	133	224
Accumulations	8	3	11
Animals or Birds	2	—	2
Verminous Premises	12	19	31
Stables	12	2	14
Yards, Courts, &c.	3	1	4
Piggeries	8	—	8
Drainage—Testing	24	10	34
Inspection	78	—	78
Closets—Water... ..	73	62	135
Pails or Privies	3	4	7
Rodent Control... ..	276	3	279
Cowsheds	12	—	12
Milkshops and Dairies	21	—	21
Sale of Ice Cream—Vendors	19	—	19
Shops	4	—	14
Slaughterhouses	14	—	14
Meat Shops	12	1	13
Food Preparing Premises	30	—	30
Bakehouses	12	2	14
General Foodshops	13	1	14
Cafe Kitchens	4	—	4
Factory Canteens	1	—	1
Market Food Stalls	237	—	237
Offensive Trades	3	—	3
Factories—Mechanical	22	4	26
Non-Mechanical	3	—	3
Outworkers	1	—	4
Shops re Shops Act	12	—	12
Infectious Diseases	33	—	33
Smoke Abatement—Observations	4	—	4
Premises Visited	3	—	3
Housing—Disinfestation	4	—	4
Overcrowding	11	—	11
Other Visits	121	—	121
Cesspools	3	—	3
Premises re Food Inspection	49	—	49
Sampling—Water	2	—	2
Milk—Pathological	3	—	3
Milk—Bacteriological	21	—	21

NATURE OF INSPECTION				Primary Inspections	Re- Inspections	Total Visits
Scabies	...	...	...	1	—	1
Refuse Collection & Disposal & Salvage	...	...	...	463	—	463
Billets	...	...	...	8	—	8
Civil Defence	...	...	...	5	—	5
Ambulance	...	...	...	19	—	19
Mortuary	...	...	...	5	—	5
Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, &c.				585	—	585

Abatement of Nuisances.

Number of complaints received	...	147
Number of nuisances found in 1945	...	144
„ „ outstanding at end of 1944	...	43
		<hr/> 187

Number of nuisances abated during 1945	...	145
„ „ outstanding at end of 1945	...	42
„ Informal Notices served	...	89
„ „ „ complied with	...	88
„ Statutory Notices served	...	8
„ „ „ complied with	...	7

Control of Infestation.

Bed Bugs - Two houses were found upon inspection to be infested with bed bugs, and disinfection was carried out in each case by the owner under supervision.

Fleas, Cockroaches, Crickets, etc.—Advice as to the eradication of these vermin is given to tenants.

Total visits made to verminous premises ... 31

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Following the two treatments of the sewers during 1944 there have been few cases of surface infestation found during the year. Surveys have been made and no “Reservoir” or “Major” infestations were found. As a result of the Surveys and of complaints received 28 “Minor” infestations were found and treated in accordance with the methods recommended by the Ministry of Food.

Number of “Minor” Infestations Treated	...	28
Estimated number of Rats killed	...	90
Total visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	279

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Refuse and Salvage collection is in operation throughout the whole of the district, two refuse wagons of 7 cu. yards capacity being used.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land situate at the Sewage Works.

Number of Metal Dustbins in use	...	2,418			
„ Ashpits in use	...	118			
			T.	C.	Q.
Total weight of Refuse collected	...	...	1,501	11	1
„ „ Salvage collected	...	...	107	4	0
			<u>1,608</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>1</u>

Average weight of Refuse per house	...	...	11.23	cwts.
„ „ Salvage	„	...	89.8	lbs.

Total Annual Cost of Collection and Disposal of Refuse ... £2,348.

The following is a summary of salvage collected :—

					T.	C.	Q.
Paper	...	...	...	...	66	6	2
Ferrous Metal	...	...	...	...	8	9	1
Non-Ferrous Metal	...	...	...	...		3	0
Textiles	...	...	...	...	2	16	0
Bones	...	...	...	...	4	16	0
Cullet	...	...	...	...	1	14	0
Bottles & Jars	{ 1 lb. Jars 433 doz. }						
	{ 2 lb. „ 47 „ }	...	...	...	4	13	0
	{ Mixed Bottles 466 „ }						

Factories Act.

Number of Inspections made	...	29
Contraventions found	...	13
„ remedied	...	7

During the year two notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories referring to contraventions remediable under the Factories Act.

Outworkers.

Notification in respect of one outworker was received during the year and one visit was made.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

One Certificate as to adequate means of escape in case of fire has been issued during the year.

HOUSING.**Overcrowding.**

Number of Dwellings known to be overcrowded at end of year...	90
Number of families dwelling therein	98
Number of persons dwelling therein	526
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	8
Number of persons concerned in such cases	48

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**Milk.****Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops—**

Number of Cowsheds	5
Average number of Milch Cows ...	48
Number of Cowkeepers Registered ...	3
Number of Dairies	5
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk ...	17
Number of Milkshops	17
Number of Inspections made of Cowshed, Dairies and Milkshops ...	33

Examination of Milk.

18 samples of Ordinary Raw Milk were taken and submitted for Bacteriological Examination, and of these five did not satisfy the Methylene Blue Test applied.

Two samples of Heat Treated Milk and four samples of "Pasteurised" Milk were taken and submitted for Bacteriological Examination, and all satisfied the Plate Count Test applied, but one sample of "Pasteurised" Milk did not satisfy the Phosphatase Test.

Three samples of Mixed Milk were submitted for examination for the presence of B. Tuberculosis, and the reports of the Bacteriologist show a "Positive" result in one case.

Following investigation by the Div. Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries subsequent upon the report of a Tubercular Positive Milk sample, one cow was slaughtered under the Provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, and Samples of Milk taken from the remaining cows in the Group were certified as Non-Tuberculosis.

Licenses.

One Licence authorising the use of the designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk sold in the District was granted.

Meat Inspection.

There is one Licensed Slaughterhouse in the district at which only the pigs of Domestic Pig Keepers (on the authority of the Food Executive Officer) have been slaughtered. The carcasses and organs of 23 pigs slaughtered at these premises were inspected at the time of slaughter.

A portion of the Licensed Slaughterhouse is used as the Meat Distribution Centre for the District and regular visits are made regarding the handling of meat, &c.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Number of Licensed Slaughtermen on Register ... 7

Inspection of Other Foods.

The total weight of foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption on examination was :

	8 cwt.	0 qrs.	23 lbs.	
of which				
	2 cwt.	0 qrs.	16½ lbs.	Bacon and Ham
	1 „	0 „	0 „	Sugar
		3 „	25½ lbs.	Butter
				and 1 case of Eggs

were returned by retailer through trade channels for disposal or salvage in accordance with Ministry of Food instructions, and the remainder was destroyed.

Inspection of Food Premises.

The following is a summary of inspections made of food premises

Bakehouses	...	...	14
Meat Shops	...	...	13
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	30
General Food Shops	...	...	63
Café Kitchens	...	...	4
Factory Canteens	...	...	1
Market Food Stalls	...	...	237
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	4

Ten notices in respect of 61 defects noted in the course of inspection of food premises were served and seven notices in respect of 46 defects were complied with.

In concluding my first Annual Report to you, I should respectfully wish to express to yourself and to Dr. Frain my appreciation of the confidence shown to me and the support given during the year.

I should also like to thank the other Officers of the Council and my clerical assistant for their kind co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

J. CLARK,

Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing Supt.

July, 1946.

